

**IN THE CLAIMS**

Please amend the claims to be in the form as follows:

Claim 1 (currently amended): A selective noise canceling headset, comprising:

at least one earpiece for reproducing a selected audio signal;

a microphone for monitoring an external audio signal in a vicinity of said headset; and

a selective noise suppression circuit for analyzing said external audio signal, including:

an audio classifier coupled to said microphone for receiving said external audio signal, said audio classifier being operative through use of audio content analysis algorithms, to analyze the audio content of said external audio signal to determine if at a given time a segment is a desired external signal, and if so to output a "use signal," but if not to output a "suppress signal," said desired external signal segment(s) including any one or combination of an audio alarm signal, a dog barking, and speech directed to a user of said earpiece; and

a noise canceling circuit for receiving both a selected audio signal and said external audio signal, and being responsive to the presence of said use signal to pass at least a portion of said external audio signal along with said selected audio signal for reproduction, and responsive to the presence of said suppress signal to prevent passage of at least a portion of said external signal, said noise canceling circuit also being selectively operable for canceling said selected audio signal during the presence of said use signal, wherein said audio classifier can initiate a recorded message responsive to said external audio signal indicating a predefined audio segment.

Claim 2 (canceled).

Claim 3 (original): The selective noise canceling headset of claim 1, wherein said reproduced portion of said external audio signal is acoustically distinct from a general background noise of a local environment.

Serial No. 09,825,045

2

Claim 4 (canceled).

Claim 5 (canceled).

Claim 6 (canceled).

Claim 7 (previously presented): The selective noise canceling headset of claim 1, wherein said selective noise suppression circuit amplifies portions of said external audio signal to be added to said selected audio signal.

Claim 8 (currently amended): A selective noise canceling device, comprising:

a microphone for monitoring an external audio signal; and

a selective noise suppression circuit for analyzing said external audio signal, including:

an audio classifier coupled to said microphone for receiving said external audio signal, said audio classifier being operative through use of content-based audio segmentation analysis techniques, to analyze said external audio signal to determine if at a given time a segment is a desired external signal, and if so to output a "use signal," but if not to output a "suppress signal"; and

a noise canceling circuit for receiving said external audio signal, and being responsive to the presence of said use signal to pass at least a portion of said external audio signal, and responsive to the presence of said suppress signal to prevent passage of at least a portion of said external signal for reproduction, wherein said audio classifier can initiate a recorded message responsive to said external audio signal indicating a predefined audio segment.

Claim 9 (original): The selective noise canceling device of claim 8, wherein said reproduced portion of said external audio signal is an alarm audio signal.

Serial No. 09,825,045

3

Claim 10 (original): The selective noise canceling device of claim 8, wherein said reproduced portion of said external audio signal is acoustically distinct from a general background noise of a local environment.

Claim 11 (original): The selective noise canceling device of claim 8, wherein said reproduced portion of said external audio signal is associated with speech directed to a user of said device.

Claim 12 (original): The selective noise canceling device of claim 8, wherein said selective noise suppression circuit suppresses said external audio signal unless a portion of said external audio signal is likely to be of interest to a user.

Claim 13 (original): The selective noise canceling device of claim 8, wherein said selective noise suppression circuit segments said external audio signal and reproduces only a desired portion of said external audio signal that is likely to be of interest to a user.

Claim 14 (previously presented): The selective noise canceling device of claim 8, wherein said selective noise suppression circuit amplifies portions of said external audio signal to be reproduced.

Claim 15 (currently amended): A selective noise canceling method, comprising:  
monitoring an external audio signal;  
analyzing said external audio signal through use of content-based audio segmentation, to identify portions thereof that may be of interest to a user;  
amplifying the identified portions of said external audio signal that are of interest;  
suppressing the portions of said external audio signal not identified; and  
adding said amplified portions of said external audio signal to a selected audio signal for reproduction thereof, wherein a recorded message is added to said to said amplified portions responsive to the analyzing of said external audio signal indicating a predefined audio segment.

Serial No. 09,825,045

4

Claim 16 (original): The selective noise canceling method of claim 15, wherein said reproduced portion of said external audio signal is an alarm audio signal.

Claim 17 (original): The selective noise canceling method of claim 15, wherein said reproduced portion of said external audio signal is acoustically distinct from a general background selective noise of a local environment.

Claim 18 (original): The selective noise canceling method of claim 15, wherein said reproduced portion of said external audio signal is associated with speech directed to a user of said method.

Claim 19 (canceled).

Claim 20 (original): The selective noise canceling method of claim 15, further comprising the step of segmenting said external audio signal and reproducing only a desired portion of said external audio signal that is likely to be of interest to a user.

Claim 21 (canceled).